Library

WISBECH PORT HEALTH AUTHORITY

Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the Year 1952

MINISTRY OF HEALTH LIBRARY

Section I - Staff

Table A

Name of Officer	Nature of Appointment	Date of Appointment	Qualifications	Any other Appointments held
Ralph Edward Crockatt	Medical Officer of Health	1st January, 1930	M.B., Ch.B.	None
Edward Joseph Sutcliffe	Sanitary Inspector	29th January, 1920	F.S.I.A.	Sanitary Inspector, Inspector of Canal Boats, Inspector of Common Lodging Houses and Inspector under the Shops Acts for Borough of Wisbech

Address and telephone number of the Medical Officer of Health:

Sudeley House, Sutton Bridge, Lincs.

Sutton Bridge 217.

Section II - Amount of shipping entering the district during the year

Table B

Ships from	No.	Tonnage	Number Inspected		Number of ships reported as having, or having had, during voyage, infectious disease on board
			By the Medical Officer of Health	By the Sanitary Inspector	
Foreign Ports	35	7,397 N.R. 15,170 Cargo	Nil	35	Nil
Coastwise	99	17,631 N.R. 39,157 Cargo	Nil	23	Nil
Total	134	25,028 N.R. 54,327 Cargo	Nil	58	Nil

Section III - Character of shipping and trade during the year

Passenger Traffic (Number of passengers Inwards: Nil
(Number of passengers Outwards: Nil

Cargo Traffic (Principal Imports: Petrol, oil, timber
(Principal Exports: Bricks, grain

Principal Ports from which ships arrive:

London, Immingham, Jersey, Guernsey, Hamburg, Rotterdam

Section IV - Inland barge traffic

Number using the district:)
Tonnage:) None during the year
Places served:)

Section V - Water supply

(1) Source of supply for

(a) the district: Misbech and District Water Board and East Kilce R.D.C. - public supplies

(b) shipping Misbech and District Water Board

(2) Reports of tests for contamination:

Monthly reports are supplied by the water undertakers and show a bacteriologically pure and wholesome supply.

(3) Precautions taken against contamination of hydrants and hosepipes:

The hydrants and hosepipes used in the supply of water to ships are kept cleansed as far as possible and, when not in use, are stored so as to avoid contamination.

(4) Number and sanitary condition of water boats and powers of control by the Authority:

There are no water boats.

Section VI - Public Health (Ships) Regulations, 1952

(1) List of Infected Areas (Regulation 6)

Arrangements for the preparation and amendment of the list, the form of the list, the persons to whom it is supplied and the procedure for supplying it to those persons.

The list is kept up by the Medical Officer of Health, who makes amendments thereto as notified to him by the Minister of Health. It is drawn up in a form which sets out the information supplied by the Minister. Any amendments are notified to the Customs Officer and the Pilot Master, the latter being requested to pass details thereof to the pilots.

(2) Radio Messages

(a) Arrangements for sending permission by radio for ships to enter the district (Regulation 13).

This is not applicable as the port is not a radio transmitting port.

(b) Arrangements for receiving messages by radio from ships and for acting thereon. (Regulation 14(1)(a) and (2)).

The Authority has no facilities for receiving directly any radio message transmitted by a ship. The ship can, however, get in touch with the Medical Officer of Health through Humber Radio.

(3) Notifications otherwise than by radio. (Regulation 14(1)(b))

Arrangements for receiving notifications otherwise than by radio and for acting thereon.

A ship wishing to enter the port waits at the Bar Flat buoy, which is at the outward limit of the pilotage area and, under normal circumstances, is boarded there by the pilot. If, on arrival at the ship, the pilot found there was, or there was suspected to be, infectious disease on board, he would return without boarding the ship and inform the Pilot Master. The latter would, in turn, inform the Medical Officer of Health, who would go out to the ship accompanied by the Sanitary Inspector.

(4) Mooring Stations. (Regulations 22 to 30)

Situation of stations and any standing directions issued under the Regulations.

The mooring station is at the Bar Flat buoy previously referred to, the position of which is latitude 52° 55' 18" N., longitude 00° 16' 40" E. Any ship on board which infectious disease is known or suspected to be present must remain there until permission for it to move is given by the Medical Officer of Health.

(5) Arrangements for

(a) Hospital accommodation for infectious diseases (other than small pox - see Section VII)

Cases of infectious disease would be removed to the Infectious Diseases Hospital at Peterborough or King's Lynn.

(b) Surveillance and follow up of contacts.

There are no special arrangements in this connection but if any person known or suspected to be a contact left the ship and the place to which he went was known, the authority for that place would be notified.

(c) Cleansing and disinfection of ships, persons, clothing and other articles.

Any necessary action in this connection would be carried out by the Sanitary Inspector. The ship would be disinfected, battened down and sealed off. Clothing and other articles would either be destroyed or disinfected at the Hospital at Peterborough or King's Lynn.

Section VII - Smallpox

(1) Name of Isolation Hospital to which smallpox cases are sent from the district.

Smallpox Hospital, Ipswich

(2) Arrangements for transport of such cases to that hospital by ambulance, giving the name of the Authority responsible for the ambulance and the vaccinal state of the ambulance crews.

In the event of there being a suspected case, the Resident Medical Officer of Health, St. Helen's Hospital, Ipswich, telephone number Ipswich 77211,

would be contacted. He would make all necessary arrangements for the ambulance and be responsible for ensuring that any necessary vaccination or disinfection of the ambulance crew was carried out.

(3) Name(s) of smallpox consultant(s) available.

Dr. C. Nisbit, Peterborough

Dr. Oliver, Norfolk and Norwich Hospital, Norwich

Dr. J. H. C. Clarke, Public Health Department, Sleaford

(4) Facilities for laboratory diagnosis of smallpox.

In the event of laboratory diagnosis being required, reference would be made to the Public Health Laboratory, Tennis Court Road, Cambridge.

Section VIII - Venereal Disease

Information as to the location, days and hours of the available facilities for the diagnosis and treatment of venereal disease among merchant seamen under international arrangements, including in-patient treatment and the steps taken to make these facilities known to seamen.

(a) Clinic at West Norfolk and King's Lynn General Hospital, King's Lynn

Males - Tuesdays and Fridays	6 p.m. to 7.30 p.m.
Females - Tuesdays and Wednesdays	3 p.m. to 4.30 p.m.

(b) Clinic at the Memorial Hospital, Peterborough

Males - Mondays and Wednesdays	5.30 p.m. to 7 p.m.
Females - Tuesdays	10.30 a.m. to 12 noon
Thursdays	5.30 p.m. to 7 p.m.

The position in regard to in-patient treatment is the same at both Hospitals. Although no accommodation is kept permanently reserved for the treatment of in-patients, facilities are made available and cases admitted as and when necessary. All medical practitioners in the district are supplied with the foregoing information, which is also publicised by way of poster. Shipbrokers and ships agents operating in the port are notified of the facilities available, so they can give the information to the masters and crews.

Section IX - Cases of notifiable and other infectious diseases on ships

Table D

Category	Disease	Number of cases during year		Number of ships concerned
		Passengers	Crew	
Cases landed from ships from foreign ports	-	Nil	Nil	-
Cases which have occurred on ships from foreign ports but which have been disposed of before arrival	-	Nil	Nil	-
Cases landed from other ships	-	Nil	Nil	-

Section X - Observations on the occurrence of malaria in ships

No cases of malaria have occurred.

Section XI - Measures taken against ships infected with or suspected for plague

There were no ships infected with or suspected for plague.

Section XII - Measures against rodents in ships from foreign ports

1. Procedure for inspection of ships for rats.

   The Sanitary Inspector, as a normal measure, makes an inspection of ships from foreign ports. Should the presence of rats be found or suspected, he would take any necessary action.

2. Arrangements for the bacteriological or pathological examination of rodents, with special reference to rodent plague, including the number of rodents sent for examination during the year.

   Any case coming under this heading would be sent to the Public Health Laboratory, Tennis Court Road, Cambridge. No rodents were sent for examination during the year.

3. Arrangements in the district for deratting ships, the methods used, and, if done by a commercial contractor, the name of the contractor.

   The deratting of ships is the responsibility of the Sanitary Inspector, who uses the fumigation method.

4. Progress in the rat-proofing of ships

Table E

Rodents destroyed during the year in ships from foreign ports

Category	Number
Black rats	Nil
Brown rats	Nil
Species not known	Nil
Sent for examination	Nil
Infected with plague	Nil

Table F

Deratting Certificates and Deratting Exemption Certificates issued during the year for ships from foreign ports.

This is not applicable as the port is not an "approved port" or a "designated approved port".

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Section XIII - Inspection of ships for nuisances

Table G
Inspections and Notices

Nature and number of Inspections		Notices served		Result of serving Notices
		Statutory Notices	Other Notices	
Routine	58	Nil	Nil	Nil
Total	58	Nil	Nil	Nil

Section XIV - Public Health (Shell-fish) Regulations 1934 & 1948

There are no shell-fish beds or layings within the jurisdiction of the Authority which are, in the opinion of the Medical Officer of Health, liable to pollution.

Section XV - Medical Inspection of Aliens

This is not a port approved for the landing of aliens and the Section is therefore not applicable.

Section XVI - Miscellaneous

Arrangements for the burial on shore of persons who have died on board ship from infectious disease.

This is the responsibility of the Sanitary Inspector, who would carry out any necessary action by arrangement with a local undertaker.

(Signed) R. E. Crockatt
Port Medical Officer of Health